

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RIYADH 00382 190755Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00
SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15
STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-02 /201 W
-----033760 191953Z /73

R 180945Z MAY 78
FM USLO RIYADH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 484
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY GENEVA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS RIYADH 382

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ENRG, SA
SUBJECT: SAUDI VIEWS ON TAIF OPEC CONFERENCE

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1. DEPUTY MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AL TURKI TOLD US MAY 17
THAT SAG WAS PLEASED AT RESULTS OF OPEC CONFERENCE, WHICH
HE TERMED RELAXED AND FRIENDLY. HE SAID FOCUS HAD BEEN
LARGELY ON LONG-TERM ISSUES AND FORMATION OF STRATEGY
COMMITTEE WAS ONLY RESDLT OF CONFERENCE. HE SAID COMMITTEE
MEMBERSHIP CHOSEN FROM FOUNDER MEMBERS PLUS ALGERIA TO
REPRESENT AFRICA; COMMITTEE HAS NO SPECIFIC TERMS OF

REFERENCE OR SCHEDULE, BUT WILL BE LOOKING AT LONGER TERM MARKET PROJECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF DEVISING OPEC STRATEGY. HE DOUBTED IF COMMITTEE WOULD MEET BEFORE GENEVA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.

2. AL TURKI SAID SAUDI ARABIA HAD NOT CHANGED ITS POSITION ON OIL PRICES OR DOLLAR, AND DENIED (SPECIFICALLY ON REPORTED SEVEN PERCENT INCREASE) THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY AGREEMENT TO INCREASE THIS YEAR OR NEXT. HE SAID SAG WOULD BE WATCHING POSITION OF DOLLAR BETWEEN NOW AND TIME OF GENEVA, AND THAT OPEC ECONOMIC COMMISSION BOARD WOULD BE ALSO STUDYING SITUATION DURING ITS MEETINGS IN VIENNA THIS WEEK, WITH POSSIBLE INTENT OF MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINISTERS. COMMENT: SAG IS REPRESENTED AT ECONOMIC COMMISSION BOARD MEETING BY MIDDLE-GRADE OFFICIAL OF OIL MINISTRY, INDICATING THAT SAG EXPECTS LITTLE OF IMPORTANCE TO EMERGE FROM MEETING.

3. IRAN IS STILL SUPPORTING SAUDI POSITION ON PRICE FREEZE, AL TURKI SAID, ADDING THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY. HE DODGED QUESTION ON WHETHER SAUDI-IRANIAN BILATERAL CONTACTS ARE CONTINUING.

GNEHM

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Message Attributes

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